1877-1878

TOWN OFFICERS.

Selectmen.

ABBOTT A. JENKINS, GEORGE F. BIRCH,
GEORGE S. WHITNEY.

Town Clerk.

DOMNICK J. LANG.

Town Treasurer.

CLIFFORD A. COOK.

Tax Collector.

WM. P. FOLEY.

Auditor.

HORACE A. BROWN.

Assessors.

GEORGE E. STACY, HARRY C. TILDEN,
THOMAS H. COYNE.

Overseers of the Poor.

CHESTER L. CLARK, JOHN SMITH,
JAMES W. BURKE.

School Committee.

JOHN J. DUGGAN, JOHN. T. McLOUGHLIN,
GEORGE L. COOKE, GEORGE E. STACY,
HEBER D. BOWKER, CHARLES MACKIN.

Board of Health.

WM. J. CLARKE, JOHN M. EATON.
ROBERT H. COCHRAN.

Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery.

JOHN M. WOOD, HENRY A. POND,
HENRY C. SKINNER, THOMAS LILLEY,
GEORGE L. MAYNARD, HENRY HANCOCK.

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Constables.

MARTIN BRODERICK,
LAWRENCE V. CORBETT,
EDWARD J. DALTON,
MICHAEL W. EDWARDS,
JAMES HOWARD,
JOHN MOORE,
MICHAEL LARKIN,
GEORGE R. SEVERANCE,
DAVID E. CASEY,
JEREMIAH DAVOREN,
OLIVER D. HOLMES,
THOMAS F. KELLY,
PHILIP P. O'DONNELL,
CHARLES H. WATERS,
NAUM GASKILL.

Field Drivers.

JOHN SHOCKROW,
EDMUND MURPHY.

Fence Viewers.

ISAAC N. DAVIS,
CHANDLER CHENEY,
CHESTER L. CLARK.

Park Commissioners.

Z. C. FIELD,
C. W. WILCOX,
TIMOTHY KIRBY.

Pound Keepers.

JOHN SHOCKROW,
EDMUND MURPHY.

Officers Appointed by the Selectmen.

Chief of Police.

HENRY C. SNELL.

Engineers of the Fire Department.

J. H. SCOTT,
JOHN T. KELLY,
P. P. O'DONNELL,
L. E. BELKNAP,
CHARLES H. COOK.

Registrars of Voters.

HENRY J. BAILEY,
OWEN F. CROUGHWELL,
*WALTER S. V. COOKE,
DOMNICK J. LANG,
WENDELL WILLIAMS.

*Resigned.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the Tax-payers of Milford: —

We herewith submit the annual report of the receipts and expenditures of said town, for the year ending February 18, 1878.

The amount of taxes assessed and committed to the collector for the year 1877 was $84,192.88.

It will be seen by his report that the amount uncollected is $11,-670.33, which, considering the great depression in business, and that there was no discount allowed the present year for prompt payment, we think speaks well for the tax-payers of Milford.

The amount appropriated for highways for the year 1877 was $8,000; the amount appropriated for sidewalks and curb-stones was $750; making a total of $8,750 for highways and sidewalks. We therefore credit the town with the whole amount ($8,750), and charge the amount paid for concreting, curbing, and labor on the highways and sidewalks to the appropriations, amounting to $8,915.54.

At the close of the year February 19, 1878, there was cash in the hands of the treasurer, $6,155.88.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

J. D HUNT, Collector for 1874.

Dr.

Balance in his hands uncollected, Feb. 19, 1877 . .	$2,094 02
Received for interest	33 37
	$2,127 39

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer	$420 82	
Abatements	1,230 78	
		$1,651 60
Balance of uncollected taxes in his hands, Feb. 19, 1878		$475 79

J. D. HUNT, Collector for 1875.

Dr.

Balance in his hands uncollected, Feb. 19, 1877 .	$4,887 00
Received for interest	176 23
	$5,063 23

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer	$3,362 34	
Abatements	274 45	
		3,636 79
Balance in his hands uncollected Feb. 19, 1878 .		$1,426 44

J. D. HUNT, Collector for 1876.

Dr.

Balance in his hands Feb. 19, 1876	$9,748 88
Received for interest	279 60
	$10,028 48

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer	$5,125 86	
Abatements	505 81	
		5,631 67
Balance in his hands, Feb. 19, 1878		$4,396 81

J. D. HUNT, Collector for 1877.

Dr.

To taxes committed for 1877	$84,192 88
Received for interest	119 90
	$84,312 78

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer . . .	$66,473 99	
" " " County tax	5,548 68	
" Abatements	619 78	
		72,642 45
Balance in his hands, Feb. 19, 1878 . . .		$11,670 33

TREASURER'S REPORT 1877-78.

Am't in hands of Treas., March 6, 1877 . .	$6,130 89
Borrowed of Milford Nat'l Bank	5,000 00
" Home " "	5,000 00
Received of J. D. Hunt, Collector, tax 1874 .	420 82
" " " " 1875 .	3,330 82
" " " " 1876 .	5,125 86
" " " " 1877 .	66,473 99
" Chas. Endicott, State T'r, State aid,	4,301 73
" " " corp'n tax,	2,291 96
" " " bank tax,	1,001 93
" " " temporary support of poor	12 00
" Chas. Endicott, State T'r, interest on State tax	19 31
" Chas. Endicott, State Tr, school fund,	353 37
" Edward Brown, County T'r, dog tax,	504 40
" B. H. Montague, rent of Town Hall .	312 07
" " lock-up . . .	199 25
" Kidder, Peabody & Co., interest on R. R. bonds	489 00
" J. B. Phipps, for oxen sold . .	190 00
" C. O. Woodbury, for pigs sold . .	30 50
" A. Hixon, auctioneer's license	2 00
" J. D. Parker, " "	2 00
" Alfred L. Hixon, " "	2 00

Received of	E. E. Tisdale,	auctioneer's license,	$2 00
"	Edmund Cheney,	" "	2 00
"	Van Amburg & Co.,	circus "	30 00
"	William L. Young,	billiard "	15 00
"	Thomas Kelley,	" "	10 00
"	Lyman Cheney,	" "	20 00
"	William L. Pond,	" "	20 00
"	Seth P. Carpenter	hall "	16 00
"	W. H. Ring,	manure sold	5 00
"	L. P. Bradish,	" "	12 00
"	William Warfield,	" "	15 67
"	Michael Miller,	gravel "	55
"	John Coffee,	" "	1 00
"	Christopher Hussey,	" "	1 25
"	H. C. Scott,	" "	3 50
"	Samuel Gaskill,	old boards "	3 50
"	Thomas Coyne,	for work done	8 50
"	Mrs. Richardson,	" " "	8 00
"	George Beatty,	" stove sold	3 00
"	F. J. Wright,	" " "	3 00
"	B. H. Spaulding,	" rowell "	12 00
"	M. A. Blunt,	" concrete walk	33 38
"	Susan Gardner,	" " "	15 92
"	George H. Kendall,	" " "	21 67
"	Stephen Matthewson,	" " "	15 97
"	A. A. Taft,	" " "	14 03
"	A. Wheeler,	" " "	12 13
"	Albert Adams,	" " "	11 70
"	Mixter Gibbs,	" " "	12 62
"	The Misses Wilkinson,	" " "	15 88
"	Mrs. Hannon,	" " "	24 93
"	Alfred Gouchee	for liquor license	125 00
"	James F. Stratton,	" "	125 00
"	James F. Stratton,	" "	100 00
"	Thomas Quirk,	" "	100 00
"	Patrick Gillon,	" "	125 00
"	Patrick Gillon,	" "	100 00

Received of	Elizabeth Ward,	for liquor license,	$50 00
"	Kate Fitzgerald,	" "	100 00
"	John Cronan,	" "	125 00
"	J. A. Rice,	" "	50 00
"	Martin Tiernan,	" "	100 00
"	Arthur Perkins,	" "	125 00
"	John Dillon,	" "	100 00
"	Thomas Kelley,	" "	125 00
"	Patrick Flannigan,	" "	100 00
"	James Rulien,	" "	125 00
"	Timothy F. Reardon,	" "	125 00
"	Owen Keefe,	" "	100 00
"	Mary Normandy,	" "	100 00
"	John Griffen,	" "	100 00
"	H. E. Morgan,	" "	50 00
"	John Burke,	" "	50 00
"	Kate McCormick,	" "	50 00
"	Margaret Welch,	" "	100 00
"	John McGrath,	" "	125 00
"	Thomas Canley,	" "	100 00
"	Edward McGowen,	" "	125 00
"	Joseph Newton,	" "	125 00
"	Ann Finnegan,	" "	50 00
"	Ann McArdel,	" "	50 00
"	John Rogers,	" "	100 00
"	Honora J. Moriarty,	" "	50 00
"	William M. Parker,	" "	50 00
"	George W. Bailey,	" "	125 00
"	Patrick Hilfarty,	" "	100 00
"	Edward J. Gallagher,	" "	125 00
"	Margaret Dunlaven.	" "	50 00
"	Hannah Dillon,	" "	50 00
"	Rose Doherty,	" "	100 00
"	Daniel Rowe,	" "	50 00
"	Theresa Foster,	" "	50 00
"	Roland Burke,	" "	100 00
"	Mary Butler,	" "	50 00

Received of T. B. Bailey,	for liquor license,		$50 00
" Ann Ferguson,	"	"	50 00
" William Sheahan,	"	"	125 00
" Lewis R. Hazard, Agt.	"	"	50 00
" Dominick Conley,	"	"	125 00
" William L. Young,	"	"	100 00
" Jos. Perkins,	"	"	125 00
" Hannah Gilmore,	"	"	100 00
" Michael McKeague,	"	"	100 00
" Lyman Cheney,	"	"	125 00
" William A. Pond,	"	"	125 00
" Albert H. Sweet,	"	"	50 00
" Martin Flaherty,	"	"	50 00
			$106,664 10
Am't paid out on Selectmen's orders,	$100,508 22		
" " in hands of Treasurer Feb. 19, 1878,	6,155 88		
			$106,664 10

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ETHAN C. CLAFLIN,
Treasurer.

TOWN INCIDENTALS.

Thomas Tracey, burying nuisances, 1876	$4 00
John M. Eaton, services on Board of Health, 1876	15 00
Wm. M. Parker, " " " " "	25 00
Patrick McGarry, services as Assessor, 1876	10 80
DeVoursnay Bros., repairing damage done to Michael M. Edward's hack, 1876	25 40
John O'Bryan, night watch	60 00
Aiden Ballou, services on town history	126 61
J. A. Fay, services on Board of Health, 1876	15 00
O. D. Holmes, posting town warrant, 1876	9 00
J. D. Hunt, collecting taxes, 1876	417 30
" " " " 1873	37 21

Wm. P. Miller, returning deaths	$0 50
Wm. Emery, incidentals	2 25
Charles Mackin, services on Board of Health, 1876	15 00
Cook & Sons, printing town reports, 1876	238 05
John Burke, posting town warrants	9 00
W. J. Clarke, services on Board of Health, 1876	15 00
Fitchburg Insurance Co., for insurance on Engine House No. 2	19 00
C. F. Chapin, fare and expenses to Worcester	2 55
J. W. Harris, two wash bowls for Town House	2 00
John Usher, for water on Upton road	5 00
M. R. Warren, for blanks	13 50
Lewis Fales, for bookcase	8 00
Tarbell & Lothrop, incidentals	19 53
C. D. Lothrop, incidentals	18 19
H. E. Morgan, condensed milk	18 00
P. McGarry, services as Assessor	210 60
Leander Holbrook, for insurance	79 00
A. J. Sumner, services as Assessor, and expenses	310 99
A. Twing, services as Assessor	205 29
G. W. Stacey, incidentals	40 68
Leonard Fairbanks, removing remains	81 24
" " returning deaths	20 00
Field & Crosby, coal for Town House	6 50
E. A. & L. A. Cook, coal for Town House	116 20
B. D. Williams, mowing park, and use of tedder	15 00
James Berging, paid watchman, July 4th	2 00
A. S. Tuttle, repairs on stoves	1 00
C. F. Chapin, fare and expenses to Providence	2 10
W. H. Hooker, painting fence at cemetery	7 00
Cook & Sons, for printing	62 50
C. J. Thompson, surveying streets	11 00
Hopedale Machine Co., as per vote of town for raising dam	500 00
Worcester Fire Insurance Co., for insurance	140 60
Use of horse and carriage nine and one half days, on tax business	19 00

Henry B. Pierce, for registry for votes	$3 20
E. P. Chapin & Co., for stationery	1 40
O. D. Holmes, posting town warrants, 1877	9 00
J. C. Coffee, posting bills	75
Cook & Sons, advertising and printing	59 00
Amos Taft, ringing bell one year	2 00
A. Hixon, incidentals	2 00
C. A. Dewey, expenses for fire inquests on I. S. Claflin's storehouse	31 14
Mr. H. Humphrey, returning two deaths	50
M. J. Burke, returning 122 deaths	30 50
Paid for Police Court room	4 80
Dexter Claflin, for use of water	5 00
S. P. Carpenter, land damages on Court Street	300 00
H. C. Scott, incidentals	43 57
E. P. Chapin, for services and paying witnesses in Blake case	17 50
T. G. Kent, judgment in the Blake case	1,519 99
C. F. Chapin, expenses and witnesses in Blake case	8 00
D. B. Jenks, incidentals	2 00
T. E. Morse, "	6 00
A. W. Keene, summoning witnesses in Vernon Grove Cemetery case	16 20
Elias Whitney, services as Overseer of Poor and Sealer of Weights and Measures	350 50
H. E. Fales, services in the Blake case	60 00
B. H. Montague, services as Lock-up Keeper and Janitor	306 67
E. C. Claflin, services as Treasurer	250 00
" " travelling expenses and postage	18 90
Lewis Fales, recording Births, Marriages and Deaths	125 50
" " services as Town Clerk	85 00
Incidental expenses	4 04
John Madden, services as Overseer of the Poor, 1876	100 00
" " " " " 1877	100 00
C. F. Chapin, services as Selectman and Board of Health	300 00

James Bergin, services as Selectman and Board of Health		$265 00
J. B. Bancroft, services as Selectman and Board of Health		250 00
James Bergin, lumber and labor		38 54
" " lumber and stock for fence at old cemetery		62 40
T. W. Pierce, incidentals for Town House		5 90
		$7,346 37
Amount appropriated	$6,500 00	
Exceeded appropriation	846 37	
		$7,346 37

HIGHWAYS.

C. O. Woodbury, for labor	$750 00
William L. Billings, services, 1876	62 50
" " " paying for labor on roads, 1876	157 75
B. F. Dyer, castings for crusher, 1876	75 00
Charles Witherell, driving team	14 72
Smith Cushman, repairing harness, 1876	7 50
Stevens & Moran, blacksmithing	32 46
Steven Albee & Co., incidentals	6 05
Lewis Phipps, for paying labor	4,193 92
T. C. Eastman, grain for teams	458 51
Parkhurst & Davis, for rent of barn	25 00
A. A. Taft, assignee, grain for teams	18 20
O. C. Cook, for man and team on roads	255 50
H. F. Shattuck, painting and repairs on four carts	25 10
Edward J. Gallagher, gravel for roads, 1869	4 56
George W. Carter, running crusher	10 00
Thomas Quirk, use of horse 18 days	9 00
Henry Willard, castings for crusher	56 30
" " labor and materials for crusher	16 40
Field & Crosby, coal for crusher	42 75
" " " hay	34 82
" " " 400 feet of oak plank	8 25

Field & Crosby, brick and coal	$20 10
" " " lumber for bridges	13 31
Simpson Brothers, concreting	1,290 28
Michael Gannon, breaking roads, 1876	3 00
Richard Carroll, curb-stones	138 28
Warren Esty, plank for bridges	17 86
C. C. Fiske, for hay, 1876	70 43
Charles Pinnell, for sled	13 00
Hopedale Machine Co., for labor on road	3 16
T. E. Morse, incidentals for roads	3 55
Wm. Fitz Gerald, sharpening drills	88
I. B. Bancroft, balance of appropriation for sidewalks in Hopedale	10 35
A. E. Barker, for repairs on Asylum Street	8 00
E. J. Prentice, " 1,131 lbs. hay	13 57
Ira Ide, for shoeing, sharpening tools, and rent of barn,	96 73
Merrick E. Hall, for gravel	21 49
Bridget Casey, " " 1876	7 50
E. J. Prentice, " straw	19 69
Smith Cushman, " repairing harness	15 45
E. A. & L. A. Cook, wood and coal for crusher	11 38
John S. Mead, tallow and oil for crusher	3 90
Lemuel Whitney, breaking roads	8 00
J. E. Batten, " "	13 75
E. C. Claflin, paying labor, breaking roads	75 79
George T. Prentice, breaking roads	1 50
James Webb, labor on crusher	2 00
W. J. Blanchard, breaking roads	5 00
Henry Willard, incidentals for crusher	71 67
James Bergin, lumber and labor on roads	49 86
Hopedale Stable, breaking roads	7 34
Hopedale Furnace Co., castings for crusher	12 70
Lysander Grow, roller frame, etc.	35 52
Lewis Phipps, services on roads	370 00
Richard Carroll, stone roller	40 00
D. B. Jenks, incidentals for highways	17 07
Bartlett & Ellis, " " "	95 74

Hopedale Stable, breaking roads, 1876		$10 88
D. B. Rockwood, incidentals for roads		40 80
S. W. Pierce, repairs on sewer		5 22
		$8,908 95
Amount appropriated for highways, curbing, and concreting	$8,750 00	
Exceeded appropriation	158 95	
		$8,908 95

TEACHING SCHOOLS.

Silas W. Hale	$1,765 00
Clara M. Howard	600 00
Lucy M. Wilber	500 00
Mrs. J. A. Whiting	720 00
Mrs. M. T. Cole	342 00
Sarah C. Belcher	306 00
Mary J. Kelly	306 00
Hellen S. Eames	720 00
Alice B. Chapin	342 00
Julia E. Connelly	306 00
Alta M. Howard	306 00
Eva R. Druper	720 00
Minnie E. Jones	228 00
Carrie V. Sadler	306 00
Carrie L. Harris	306 00
Mrs. A. E. Tarr	396 00
Anna E. Gates	396 00
Mrs. H. W. Staples	352 00
Kate E. Martin	306 00
Sarah F. Burnes	306 00
Delia E. Gleason	342 00
Maggie F. Madden	216 00
Kate Chapin	294 00
Oreanna Cheney	252 00
Ada A. Skinner	330 00
Eva E. Norcross	396 00

Kate A. Wallace		$306 00
Minnie L. Mann		306 00
Inez Tuttle		195 50
Julia M. Barry		144 00
Annie E. Sheldon		252 00
Mary F. Devine		306 00
Mary F. Aylward		306 00
Maggie L. Murphy		306 00
Mary E. Cochrane		306 00
Ellen A. Moriarty		276 00
Anna L. Adams		306 00
A. Augusta Cay		306 00
S. Eldora Sheldon		306 00
Eva L. Chapman		306 00
Susan E. Inman		306 00
Mary F. Kelly		102 00
Mrs. Lambert Pierce		44 00
Mrs. C. N. Nichols		102 00
Isadore Harvey		114 50
		$15,954 50
Amount appropriated	$16,000 00	
Unexpended		45 50
		$16,000 00

CARE OF SCHOOLHOUSES.

S. W. Hale	$100 00
Frank R. Claflin	72 00
H. S. Eames	144 00
Eva R. Draper	72 00
Ira Wight	135 00
Mrs. E. A. Tarr	36 00
Annie E. Gates	18 00
Kate E. Chapin	18 00
Oreanna Cheney	20 00
Ada A. Skinner	18 00

Eva E. Norcross		$18 00
Kate A. Wallace		18 00
Minnie L Mann		22 00
Mrs. Milan		54 00
Mary F. Devine		18 00
Patrick Madden		57 00
Mary J. Kelly		6 00
A. Augusta Cay		18 00
Alfred L. Page		11 50
Geo. P. Smith, cleaning Park Schoolhouse, and care		42 00
Mrs. C. Nichols		6 00
Ellen A. Moriarty		6 00
Mary McBride, cleaning house		3 00
		$972 50
Amount appropriated	$1,000	
Unexpended appropriation		27 50
		$1,000 00

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS.

E. A. & L. A. Cook		$784 00
F. R. Claflin		1 60
Barney & Son		61 40
J. W. Stanford		5 50
Burney & Son, wood		20 66
" " " coal		48 73
" " " "		12 71
		$934 61
Amount appropriated	$1,600	
Unexpended appropriation		665 39
		$1,600 00

SCHOOL INCIDENTALS.

C. J. Gilmore, Truant Officer, 1876	$25 00
C. E. Whiting, services on School Committee, 1876	60 00
James T. Cannovan, " " " " "	70 00
Mathew Callanan, " " " " "	60 00
C. A. Dewey, " " " " "	40 00
C. J. Thompson, " " " " "	85 00
John Madden, use of well, 1876-77	10 00
Parkhurst & Crockett, use of well, 1876	5 00
Stephen Albee & Co., incidentals, "	3 05
P. P. Goodspeed, repairing clock, "	4 75
A. F. Putnam, run of well, "	3 33
William Emery, incidentals, 1877	1 15
J. W. Harris, "	5 05
John Burke, services	4 00
Milford Gas Light Co., gas for High School	8 16
A. S. Tuttle, incidentals	1 20
D. B. Jenks, "	50 83
Wm. L. Tarbell, incidentals	3 65
Thomas Tracy, "	3 00
C. J. Thompson, services on School Committee	36 00
E. Steiger, map of Roman Empire	9 04
Bartlett & Ellis, incidentals	1 88
John W. Simmons, "	3 00
G. W. Stacy, school books	116 24
George E. Stacy, services on School Committee	200 00
" " " incidentals	53 01
" " " "	13 45
Edward Shields, use of well and clearing lot	7 00
J. W. Harris, incidentals	12 10
George O. Hatch, use of well	5 00
A. S. Tuttle, incidentals	14 29
George E. Stacy, sundries	11 86
George W. Stacy, "	35 25
" " " school books	104 43
" " " incidentals	106 74

D. B. Jenks, incidentals		$22 84
Thomas Quirk, use of well, 1876-7		10 00
M. Callanan, incidentals for schools		34 42
P. McGarry, use of well		5 00
J. W. Simmons, 5 months' services as Superintendent,		833 32
H. E. Morgan, incidentals		11 24
Milford Gas Light Co., gas for High School		3 38
		$2,092 66
Amount appropriated	$2,500 00	
Unexpended appropriation		407 34
		$2,500 00

REPAIRS OF SCHOOLHOUSES, 1877-8.

T. E. Morse, repairs on Hoboken School		$28 21
H. W. Harvey, repairs		66 50
Eldridge & Beatty		197 58
E. M. Noyes		71 73
James Bergin		134 16
S. W. Pierce		20 35
Wm. L. Billings		78 75
Ira Wight		5 00
Stephen Albee & Co.		32 66
W. H. Hooker		2 60
T. E. Morse, repairs		3 50
Ira Wight, repairs on Claflin Schoolhouse		3 00
Field & Crosby, lumber for repairs on schoolhouse		69 68
Stephen Albee & Co., setting glass		6 95
Geo. H. Kendall, repairs		1 25
H. W. Harvey, "		5 25
Stephen McTague		17 50
		$744 67
Amount appropriated.	$750 00	
Unexpended		5 33
		$750 00

INTEREST PAID.

J. E. Walker, treasurer Savings Bank		$150 00
" " " " "		813 33
Milford National Bank		85 42
Elisha Chapin		30 00
Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, interest on bonds		1,925 00
C. A. Hamilton, interest on two notes		300 00
" " " on one note		500 00
Charles Endicott, interest on $30,000 six months		1,050 00
G. W. Kimball, interest		150 00
Home National Bank, interest		64 58
Sarah F. Pierce, interest		36 00
Hide and Leather National Bank, interest R. R. bonds,		1,500 00
Milford Savings Bank, interest		625 00
John S. Chapin, interest		55 00
Silas A. Hill, "		25 00
Hide and Leather Bank, interest on town bonds		1,925 00
Charles Endicott, treasurer, interest		1,050 00
C. A. Hamilton, " "		500 00
John P. Daniels, " "		120 00
Hide and Leather National Bank		1,500 00
		$12,404 33
E. C. Claflin, interest paid Vernon Grove Cemetery		21 00
		$12,425 33
Amount appropriated	$13,000 00	
Unexpended appropriation		574 67
		$13,000 00

GAS AND CARE OF STREET LAMPS.

Milford Gas Co. for gas		$1,778 56
Hopedale Machine Co., care of street lamps		52 00
Howard & Pierce, for naphtha		11 91
Stephen Albee & Co., setting glass in lamps		4 08
Geo. P. Smith, lighting, 1876		22 45

F. G. McCarter, lighting, 1876		$23 69
I. N. Davis, globes and pipe		28 12
" " lamp-posts, pipe and labor		128 28
		$2,049 09
Amount appropriated	$1,900 00	
Exceeded appropriation	149 09	
		$2,049 09

BANK AND CORPORATION TAX.

$3,053 70

REPAIRS OF ENGINE HOUSES AND RESERVOIRS.

$100 00

Amount appropriated	$300 00	
Unexpended appropriation		200 00
		$300 00

FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENTALS.

$1,740 00

Amount appropriated	$1,200 00	
Exceeded appropriation	540 00	
		$1,740 00

The excess was caused by being obliged to procure a new boiler for one of the steamers.

MONEY BORROWED AND PAID.

Milford National Bank	$5,000 00
Home National Bank	5,000 00
	$10,000 00

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Elias Whitney		$13,364 86
Amount appropriated	$7,500 00	
Exceeded appropriation	5,864 86	
		$13,364 86

SUPPORT OF CHILDREN AT STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

S. C. Wighington	$311 50

Due from State for State aid, for 1877	$4,044 00
Land on Carpenter Street	250 00
Land and gravel pit on Green Street	250 00
S. W. Hayward, for concrete walk	47 69
Hayward and Fales, " "	16 00
Mary F. Griffin, " "	16 76
F. O. Mason, " "	52 26
Peter Rockwood, " "	13 00
R. P. Harrington, " "	14 41
Nelson Parkhurst, " "	17 97
Mrs. A. H. Hastings, " "	14 38
H. A. Yeomans, " "	20 48
Mr. Estabrooks, " "	21 93
Geo. L. Thayer, " "	62 18
B. D. Godfrey, for labor of town teams	7 00
Cash in hands of the Treasurer, February 19, 1878	6,155 88
Due from the county for rent of Police Court room	300 00

RECAPITULATION.

Town incidentals	$7,346 37
Highways and sidewalks	8,908 95
Teaching schools	15,954 50
Fuel for Schools	934 61
Care of Schoolhouses	972 50
Repairs "	744 67
School incidentals, including Superintendent	2,092 66
Gas posts and lighting	2,049 09
Interest paid	12,425 33
Support of poor.	13,364 86
Town Library	1,316 28
Pay of members of Fire Department	3,600 00
Decoration Day	65 32
Repairs of Engine Houses and Reservoirs	100 00
Incidentals for Fire Department	1,740 00
Bank and Corporation tax	3,053 70

Money borrowed and paid	$10,000 00
State Tax	4,290 00
Charles Endicott, one fourth of license money	1,275 00
State Aid	3,972 00
Town debt paid	5,000 00
S. C. Wrighington, support of children of Reform School	311 50
Repairs on Town House	1,000 88
	$100,518 22

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES F. CHAPIN,
JAMES BERGIN,
J. B. BANCROFT.
Selectmen of Milford.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor respectfully submit the following report for the year ending Feb. 1, 1878: —

ARTICLES USED AT THE FARM.

Flour,	from	H. C. Scott . .	$123 95
"	"	E. J. Prentice .	201 25
Grain,	"	T. C. Eastman .	651 31
Shorts,	"	" " . .	90 42
"	"	E. J. Prentice .	121 78
Grain,	"	A. Thwing .	7 75
Clothing,	"	J. H. Barker .	62 05
"	"	B. E. Harris .	88 80
Boots and shoes,	"	Thompson Bros. .	120 75
Dry goods,	"	A. A. Coburn and others . .	127 90
Fertilizers,	"	D. B. Jencks . .	38 80
Harness,	"	J. N. Lilley . .	35 00
Burials,	"	L. Fairbanks . .	25 00
Milford Journal, for 1876 and 1877 . .			4 00
Crockery, etc.,	from	A. S. Tuttle . .	22 05
Paint,	"	S. A. Albee & Co.	29 55
Bread,	"	S. Mathewson, 1876 & '77	52 40
Meat,	"	J. S. & J. L. Mead and others . .	477 60
Bills paid by	"	S. Harrington at farm	61 77
Fish,	"	Fred. Woods .	66 10
Medicine and medical attendance . .			70 93
Tools, etc.,	from	Bartlett & Ellis .	100 87

Repairs,	from	D. B. Rockwood .	$39 08
Painting wagon,	"	H. T. Shattuck .	12 00
Rapairing pump, etc.,	"	Moses Tarbell .	6 87
Mason-work,	"	Sidney Pierce .	18 50
Plough,	"	Albert Howe .	10 00
Lime,	"	E. A. & L. A. Cook	1 50
Oxen,	"	A. Bragg . .	135 00
"	"	J. D. Hosmer .	145 00
"	"	EdwinBates . .	117 50
Coal,	"	Field & Crosby .	117 49
Blacksmithing,	"	Ira Ide . .	17 39
Building wall,	"	T. O'Brien . .	27 50
Labor at farm and salary,	from	S. Harrington .	881 63
Tea,	"	H. C. Scott . .	107 24
Coffee,	"	" " . .	22 03
Oil,	"	" " . .	25 50
Wood-ware,	"	" " . .	4 72
Sugar,	"	" " . .	162 84
Cheese,	"	" " . .	12 43
Oat-meal,	"	" " . .	1 13
Lemons,	"	" " . .	2 48
Starch,	"	" " . .	1 20
Grass and garden-seeds,	"	" " . .	19 44
Fish,	"	" " . .	26 59
Matches,	"	" " . .	8 80
Potash,	"	" " . .	15 57
Butter,	"	" " . .	214 52
Meat-barrels,	"	" " . .	3 10
Molasses,	"	" " . .	50 45
Lead and slate pencils	"	" " . .	31
Spices,	"	" " . .	4 09
Soap and soda,	"	" " . .	12 41
Tobacco and snuff,	"	" " . .	61 71

Medicine,	from H. C. Scott,	$6 14	
Hops and yeast,	" " "	6 95	
Salt,	" " "	7 35	
Dried apples, rice, and pepper,	" " "	6 27	
Rope, twine, and farming utensils,	" " "	13 03	
Pails, brooms, lamp chimneys, etc.	" " "	12 69	
Total expenses at the farm			$4,918 48

RECEIPTS FROM THE FARM.

Milk	$666 79	
Produce sold H. C. Scott	59 17	
" beef, etc., J. S. Mead	388 22	
" S. Harrington	212 65	
Board of Mrs. Jones	182 50	
		$1,509 33
Net cost		$3,409 15

Thirteen hundred and twenty-six dollars and eighty-three cents have been collected and accounted for; one hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifty cents are outstanding, to go to new account when collected.

Amount due from S. S. & L. P. Jones, $372.75, for which a suit has been commenced to recover the same.

INSANE.

Abbott L. Perry	$118 56
John O. Hara	74 30
Henry Cain	209 65
Dennis Pyne	203 87
Caroline Coughlin	192 75
Maynard Rawson	200 35

Ann Lahey	$184 03	
Charles Dunham	249 70	
Mathew Shea	55 50	
Albert Dunn	24 78	
		$1,513 49

PERSONS RECEIVING AID AWAY FROM FARM IN MILFORD.

Patrick Clynes	$33 46
Alfred Marceau	5 40
Didamia Howard	32 50
Thomas Mullen	14 90
Mrs. John Hogan	59 14
Patrick J. Burns	44 85
Jane Horner	57 00
Mrs. Mary O. Conner	30 00
Mrs. Mary White	15 20
Mrs. Miles Burke	39 28
Patrick McQuaid	225 78
Mrs. Michael Connors	101 37
Mrs. Cath. Cooley	32 25
Bernard Kelly	198 11
Ann Carey	105 98
Bridget Conway	25 05
Mrs. Patrick Powers	89 75
John Ryan	37 12
Dennis Griffin	62 69
Mrs. Mary Sullivan	25 00
Mrs. Geo. Holland	63 53
Thomas Hews	41 18
Thomas Hogan	18 00
Mrs. Dennis O'Connor	90 69
Mrs. Bridget O'Connor	103 23
Frank Surgerson	29 40
Martin O. Connell	28 13
Michael O'Connell	24 25

William Brien	$19 88
Patrick Sullivan	17 88
Bridget Cain	31 00
Joseph Deige	102 00
Peter McCabe	16 00
Richard White	6 50
Frank Finn	38 97
Mrs. Con Sullivan	30 26
Thomas J. Harper	18 38
Mrs. Cath. O'Riley	36 05
Mrs. Dennis Pyne	33 00
John Rowe	183 48
Thomas Surgerson	20 00
Moses Hoyett	138 48
Mrs. Michael Dillon	41 92
Mrs. Michael Casey	61 62
Patrick McDermott	100 00
Mrs. Stephen Burke	157 02
Patrick Flynn, 2d	37 03
Mrs. Daniel Slattery	57 00
Patrick McGrath	28 70
Michael Colman	26 00
Patrick Fahey	28 65
David Quinlan	182 05
Mrs. Mary Cook	93 79
Mrs. Mary Connelly	24 55
Mrs Harry Sidley	37 38
Martin Mealy	27 26
Mutagh Reynolds, 2d	34 75
Thomas Finton	67 38
Edward McKenna	101 85
Euceba Methot	65 00
Rhoda Allen	60 00
John Riley	1 88
Patrick Roach	54 38
Edward Holahan	16 88
Amasa Haynes	5 88

Thomas Lyons	$44 36
Mrs. Michael Lyons	114 89
Patrick Curney	114 07
John Clancy	84 83
Mrs. George Critchley	20 00
Daniel Shea	90 63
Mrs. Thomas Rabbit	176 12
Thomas Craven	164 51
Mary Cox	50 00
Thomas Milan	1 75
Edward Honley	14 25
Martin Keenan	8 00
Patrick Markham	225 45
Mrs. Emma Sturtevant	70 25
Andrew Gilroy	27 81
Lewis Hinckley	22 45
Mrs. Julia Carey	53 50
Miss Nora Crahan	229 65
Michael Lally	12 30
Michael Holland	4 50
Raney Dannelx	24 38
Patrick Campbell	2 00
Patrick Twohey	4 38
Elijah H. Hildreth	25 02
John Burke	7 00
Michael Hagney	5 60
Michael Larin	41 00
Peter Cheny	38 86
Patrick Condry	32 25
James Boland, Jr.	4 25
Mrs. W. Ellis	16 91
Mrs. Patrick Conniff	108 00
Michael Fitzgerald	13 84
James Horgan	47 55
Michael Bradley	9 00
Mrs. John Mahoney	13 75
Anthony Hannon	12 75

Howard Holland	$95 30	
Martin Murphy	8 00	
Mary O'Donnell	43 35	
Mrs. Paul O'Connor	12 50	
Michael Regan	37 00	
James Hillery	5 88	
Martin Ward	4 00	
Hannah Meekin	9 42	
Michael Sheehan	4 00	
Patrick Clunan	28 25	
Mrs. Chas. Forbush	28 76	
Catherine H. Malone	16 63	
Patrick Butler	9 63	
Thomas Holland	18 51	
Henry W. Thayer	22 00	
John W. Wilson	10 63	
Edgar A. Hayward	51 25	
		$5,964 17

PERSONS BELONGING TO MILFORD AIDED IN OTHER TOWNS.

Sarah Ann Steele, Boston	$48 18
John Moore, Boston	22 46
Mrs. E. J. Adams, Boston	25 00
Mrs. Harriet Draper, Boston	10 00
Mrs. Ann Kennedy, Boston	40 00
Mrs. Eliza Curry, Boston	5 38
Mrs. Bridget Kenny, Boston	3 38
Mrs. E. D. Bernard, Boston	14 24
Wm. J. Stewart, Marlboro'	21 03
Abraham Quntill, Haverhill	37 55
Eli D. Boorer, Haverhill	73 30
Benj. D. Boorer, Haverhill	24 75
Patrick Flynn, Worcester	15 45
Catherine Haynes, Worcester	8 40
Peter O'Callahan, Worcester	2 00

Mrs. Mary Sheehe, Worcester	$33 20	
Daniel Gilmore, Worcester	10 85	
Mary Ford, Worcester	3 00	
James A'Hern, Hopkinton	36 85	
Eliza Chirny, Southboro'	45 00	
Edward Sawyer, Southboro'	6 54	
Daniel Dugan, Waltham	85 25	
Ann M. Gallagher, Framingham	64 66	
Elliot A. Bates, Framingham	145 55	
Mrs. Patrick Sullivan, Fall River	165 38	
Mrs. Margaret Quinn, Lowell	72 00	
Anna Gayton, Holliston	22 50	
Mrs. Mary E. Fanning, Spencer	29 00	
Nellie F. Holbrook, Hopkinton	10 40	
John W. Southland, Upton	10 00	
Henry O. Anthony, "	59 82	
Fleming Adams, Wrentham	25 50	
Julius L. Johnson, "	26 27	
		$1,202 89

STATE PAUPERS.

John Maddagin,	Ann Foley,
Pat Milan,	George Sheehan,
Jane O'Donnell,	Joshua Downey,
John F. Murphy,	John A. Cummings,
Michael Curley,	Thomas Foley,
James Small,	Ed. Siverack,
Jeremiah O'Brien,	Susan Sweeney,
Mrs. D. Gilmore,	Susan Toohey,
Crohen Connell,	Margaret Murphy,
Michael Finn,	John Gallagher,
Hannah Cooney,	Mary Murphy,
William Fahey,	John Foley,
Mrs. Terrance Russell,	Mary Hubon,
Thomas Horrip,	James Kenneday,
John Petted,	John Coudry,

William B. Dodd,	Wm. Wyett,
Mrs. John Shockrowe,	Mary O'Connell,
James O'Brien,	John D. Hayes,
John Hayes,	Henry Doyle,
Thomas Coffee,	Michael Murphy,
Michael Tinan,	Ernest Bernard,
William Kirby,	Henry Lawler,
Mary A. Dacey,	Leon Tourtelotte.

Total amount	$1,690 20	
233 Tramps	22 25	

PERSONS RESIDING IN MILFORD HAVING SETTLEMENTS IN OTHER TOWNS.

Mrs. William Marr, Shrewsbury	$217 03	
Benjamin Newton, "	2 50	
E. D. Whitney, Milbury	135 59	
Horace Ryan, "	10 07	
Mrs. John McFarland, Cambridge	30 13	
Wm. Grannan, Great Barrington	29 25	
Wm. H. Bigelow, Hopkinton	15 38	
James M. Bowker, "	38 88	
James Doherty, "	18 40	
Michael Murphy, "	10 00	
Mrs. —— King, "	17 19	
Benj. Fairbanks, "	5 00	
Chas. F. Thompson, Uxbridge	23 57	
Geo. W. Brown, "	82 47	
Geo. W. Fisk, Upton,	34 00	
Eugene Durfee, Holliston	8 00	
Jane Reeves, "	9 50	
John P. Hughes, "	72 25	
George Loreday, "	3 00	
Moses S. Force, Medway	5 00	
Richard Carey, Boston	24 78	
John Burr, Worcester	11 00	
George C. Christian, Nantucket	12 00	
O. Sparrow, Wrentham	40 31	
		$855 55

DUE FROM TOWNS.

Hopkinton	$12 03	
Holliston	16 00	
Uxbridge	11 60	
Upton	34 15	
Shrewsbury	27 49	
Medway	5 00	
Charge to State	763 68	
L. P. S. S. Jones, Feb. 1	372 75	
		$1,242 70

RECEIPTS.

Goods on hand February, 1877	$57 08	
Cash from State	543 82	
" " Shrewsbury	192 04	
" " Uxbridge	94 44	
" " Great Barrington	29 25	
" " Nantucket	12 00	
" " Holliston, 1876 and 1877	116 91	
" " Worcester	11 00	
" " Hopkinton, 1876 and 1877	92 73	
" " Cambridge " " "	51 49	
" " Milbury	145 96	
" " Wrentham	40 31	
" " Boston	24 78	
" " James Sullivan	10 00	
" " John Best	2 00	
" " John S. Mead	72 49	
" " H. C. Scott	59 17	
" " John S. Mead	388 22	
" " S. Harrington	212 65	
" " Milk	666 79	
		$2,823 13
" town orders, E. C. Claflin.		13,364 86
		$16,187 99

RECAPITULATION.

Paid for State paupers	$1,690 20	
" 233 tramps	22 25	
		$1,712 45
Insane	$1,513 49	
Farm	4,918 44	
Other towns	855 55	
Outside	5,964 17	
Living in other towns	1,202 89	
Incidentals, printing, and stationery .	16 50	
Post-office stamps	4 50	
		$14,475 54
		$16,187 99

We would again call the attention of the town to the necessity of an addition to our Almshouse, as a hospital for the harmless insane. Six of our insane could be at home at the farm with a saving of expense, if we had suitable rooms for them.

We would ask for an appropriation of $300 to repair the outbuildings.

At the close of the year, — Feb. 1, 1878, — there was personal property at the farm to the amount of $4,271, as follows: One horse, one yoke oxen, eleven cows, thirty-four tons hay, twelve hogs; farming tools, household furniture, provisions, etc., without much variation from year to year. We have endeavored to keep everything in as good repair as we found it Feb. 1, 1877. All the repairs come out of the money charged to the farm. The Superintendent is paid to March 1, also the Town Doctor. Superintendent's salary, $600; Town Doctor, $100.

Whole number admitted to the farm the past year, 67; discharged, 26; died, 5; present number, 34; average number, 36; average weekly cost, $1.82. There has been more sickness among the poor that have received aid for the past year, and more deaths, than ever in one year, — 34. Sick State poor are paid to Jan. 1, 1878, and bills sent to State House (State Charities).

Amount of bills not yet allowed by the Board of State Charities, $763.68.

The town of Blackstone has a bill against Milford, which we have sent back for correction, there being charges in it that are not legal.

The city of Newton also has a bill that came too late to be corrected, there being charges in it that we refuse to pay. We would recommend our successors in office to look well to the two above bills.

ELIAS WHITNEY,
JOHN MADDEN,
DAVID NELSON,
Overseers of the Poor of Milford.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS

OF THE

MILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 1878.

Cash hand Feb. 19, 1877		$2,732 00
" received of E. C. Claflin for pay of members		3,600 00
" " " " " incidentals		1,640 00
" " " " " repairs		200 00
" " Worcester S. E. Ag. Society		1 50
" " Asaph Withington		1 25
Total amount of receipts		$5,470 07
" " expenditures	$5,432 66	
Cash on hand Feb. 16, 1878	37 41	
		$5,470 07

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid S. W. Pierce	$19 90
" Gas Co.	216 50
" Field & Crosby	127 67
" W. D. Cole	11 88
" C. L. Witherell	27 37
" Board of Engineers	250 00
" Aaron Claflin Engine Co. No. 2	235 00
" North Star " " " 4	680 00
" Extinguisher No. 1	199 25
" Excelsior H. & L. Co. No. 1.	300 00
" Milford Engine Co. "	185 00
" Wide Awake Hose Co. "	307 50

Cash paid Washington Engine Co No. 1	$725 00
" Henry Willard	273 13
" Daniel Messenger	15 00
" Bartlett & Ellis	26 31
" A. S. Allen	61 90
" Charles E. Moorhouse	43 00
" N. B. Fairbanks	203 60
" Adolphus Tyler	63 66
" Charles McNally	7 00
" W. H. Scammell	10 00
" John M. Wood	4 50
" M. L. Tarbell	8 98
" Allen Fire Dept. Supply Co.	10 00
" W. H. Britton	7 03
" Providence & Worcester R. R.	26 00
" S. P. Oliver	103 70
" J. T. Ryan	19 90
" Hopedale Machine Co.	8 55
" William Shields	13 25
" Prov. & Wor. R. R. Ex. Co.	1 20
" Western Union Tel. Co.	25
" W. C. Gillman	5 20
" Cole Bros.	910 50
" American Steam Gauge Co	1 75
" Chambers, Calder & Co.	5 40
" S. Cushman	2 65
" John Goldsmith	4 50
" Albert Murdock	6 00
" J. M. Woods, for committee	39 80
" Stephen Albee & Co.	2 76
" O. Whitney & Son	15 25
" J. D. Hunt	6 00
" Stevens & Moran	4 00
" Coffey & Armstrong	1 00
" C. Bradbury	2 75
" Ethan Homes	2 00
" Hunneman & Co.	16 00

Cash paid	E. A. & L. A. Cook	$10 50
"	J. B. Bancroft	1 50
"	M. W. Edwards	9 00
"	William Remick	18 00
"	C. O. Woodbury	171 96
"	A. S. Tuttle	3 25
"	stationery and postage	1 36
Total amount of expenditures		$5,432 66

There have been, during the past year, eight alarms. Fire in buildings, six. Burning of chimney, one. Burning of hay, one.

MEMBERS.

The present number of members in the department is one hundred and sixty-seven, divided as follows: —

Engineers	7
Washington Engine Co. No. 1	40
North Star Engine Co. No. 4	44
Wide Awake Hose Co. No. 1	20
Milford Steamer No. 1	12
Aaron Claflin Steamer, No. 2	12
Excelsior H. & L. Co. No. 1	20
Extinguisher Co. No. 1	12

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Five engine houses and furniture for the same.

Two hand engines and hose carriages.

Two steam fire engines and hose carriages.

One four-wheeled hose carriage and fixtures for the same.

One Babcock fire extinguisher.

One hook and ladder carriage, with hooks and ladders for the same.

Seventeen reservoirs, located as follows: —

One near the Town House, one near the junction of Main and Spruce Streets, one at Lincoln Square, one on Parish Common, one on the corner of Main and Fruit Streets, one on West Street near

S. Walker's boot factory, one on Congress Street, one on Exchange Street, one on Central Street, one on Jefferson Street, one at junction of Pearl and School Streets, one on Walnut Street, near schoolhouse, one on North road, near Joseph Hancock's, one at North Milford, one at Jonesville, one on corner of West and Lee Streets, one on Grove, near Forest Street.

Two sets of harness, kept at steamer house.

Five thousand three hundred feet of leading hose.

CONDITION OF PROPERTY.

HOUSES.

The engine-houses Nos. 1 and 2 need painting. No. 4 engine-house needs painting and other repairs. The steamer and extinguisher houses are in good repair.

ENGINES.

Washington Engine, No. 1, L. Button & Son, builders, is located in No. 1 Engine-house, and is in good repair.

North Star Engine, No. 4, Jeffers, builder, is located in No. 4 Engine-house, and is in good repair.

Milford Steam Fire Engine, No. 1, Cole Brothers, builders, is located in the steamer-house, and is in good repair.

Aaron Claflin Steam Fire Engine, No. 2, Amoskeag build, is located in the steamer-house, and is in good repair.

Wide Awake Hose Carriage, No. 1, is located in No. 1 Engine-house, and is in good repair.

Excelsior Hook and Ladder Carriage, No. 1, is located in No. 2 Engine-house, is in good repair, with hooks, ladders, and fixtures for the same.

Extinguisher, No. 1, is located in engine-house at Hopedale, and is in good repair.

HOSE.

There is in the department four thousand four hundred feet of leading hose, twelve hundred feet of which is not reliable.

There is also nine hundred feet that is worthless.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

That the pay of members be the same as last year; building of a reservoir near the junction of Central and Bow Streets; the purchasing of one thousand feet of hose; and the appropriation of the following sums for the department: —

For pay of members	$3,600 00
" incidental expenses	1,500 00
" repairs of reservoirs and houses	300 00

WILLIAM C. GILLMAN,
MOSES DAY,
J. B. BANCROFT,
ASAPH WITHINGTON,
M. W. EDWARDS,
J. M. WOODS,
ANDREW BAGLEY.

REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN LIBRARY.

It is with no small degree of satisfaction that the standing committee of the Board of Trustees of the Town Library present their report of the institution for the library year just closed; and especially do we feel the propriety of congratulating the citizens of the town on the very marked advancement made in the past few years, in accordance with the interest and spirit of this necessary and appreciated public institution. During this time the rooms have been thoroughly renovated and rendered much more attractive. Among other features calculated to add to the good appearance of the rooms, may be mentioned the hanging on the walls of several beautifully executed geological surveys, generously donated to the Library by Lieut. George M. Wheeler, U. S. A., and which cost simply the framing and the hanging.

During the past three years, also, that very important adjunct, the reading-room, has been added. At the outset this was regarded as more or less of an experiment, although the Board of Trustees which created it was unanimous in the opinion that the trial should be made. But the enterprise ceased to be an experiment from the first week of its inception, for it was at once generally recognized as a " new departure " which exactly filled a long-felt public need; consequently, it met with a generous reception at the hands of the general public. In a town of the size and importance of Milford, a free public reading-room is altogether desirable. Of course it is an additional expense to the library fund; for the room must be lighted and warmed, newspapers and periodicals have to be furnished, there is an additional rental, etc.,

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF

VERNON GROVE CEMETERY.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 15, 1878.

WE have attended to the duties assigned us in keeping the roads and avenues in good repair, selling lots desired, giving deeds, and collecting pay for the same.

We have given deeds of eleven lots, for which we have received one hundred and two dollars.

There have been fifty-eight interments in the cemetery during the year.

The Treasurer submits the following report: —

DR.	Cash due the Treasurer, 1877	$8 81
	" paid for labor	172 43
	" " sods	11 00
	" " dressing	11 20
	" " grass seed	3 45
	" paid Bartlett & Ellis	11 34
	" " for tools and sundries	12 85
		$231 08
CR.	Cash received for deeds	$102 00
	" " fitting up lots	24 50
	" " from W. B. Dyer estate	9 00
	" " " Eunice Albee "	6 00

CR.	Cash received from Theron Holbrook estate	$6 00
	" due the Treasurer	83 58
		$231 08
	Balance due the Treasurer	$83 58

There is an outstanding debt for labor, of sixty-five dollars.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LEONARD FAIRBANKS, *Treasurer.*

W. I. BRADBURY, *Secretary.*

JOHN M. WOOD, C. F. CHAPIN, } Term expires March 1, 1878.

L. FAIRBANKS, I. N. CROSBY, } Term expires March 1, 1879.

H. C. SKINNER, W. I. BRADBURY, } Term expires March 1, 1880.

MILFORD, Feb. 15, 1878.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1877–78.

CLERK.

Lewis Fales.

TREASURER.

Ethan C. Claflin.

SELECTMEN, HIGHWAY SURVEYORS, AND BOARD OF HEALTH.

Charles F. Chapin, Joseph B. Bancroft, James Bergin.

ASSESSORS.

Andrew J. Sumner, Patrick McGarry, Almon Thwing.

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Elias Whitney, John Madden, David Nelson.

CONSTABLES.

Patrick Sherin, James Powers, Andrew Bagley, Michael W. Edwards, John Burke, 2d, Thomas McGee, Patrick J. Glennon, William Sherman, David Murphy, Oliver D. Holmes, Edwin F. Chapin, C. Everett Clark, Charles J. Gilmore, William Remick, Maurice Nelligan.

FENCE VIEWERS.

Elias Whitney, Andrew J. Sumner.

FIELD DRIVERS.

John F. Murphy, John Clancy.

SURVEYOR OF LUMBER.

James Bergin.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Charles E. Whitney, Mathew Collanan, } Term expires March, 1878.

George E. Stacy, Charles J. Thompson, } Term expires March, 1879.

Charles A. Dewey, J. T. Canovan, } Term expires March, 1880.

TRUSTEES OF TOWN LIBRARY.

W. H. Cook, P. Lynch, Silas W. Hale, Mathew Callanan, A. A. Burrill, P. A. Gleason, Nathaniel Blake, C. Lynch, Henry J. Bailey, A. E. Mathews, E. D. Bancroft, D. J. Cronan, Charles W. Wilcox.

TRUSTEES OF VERNON GROVE CEMETERY.

John M. Wood, C. F. Chapin, } Term expires March, 1878.

L. Fairbanks, I. N. Crosby, } Terms expires March, 1879.

W. Irving Bradbury, H. C. Skinner, } Term expires March, 1880.

ENGINEERS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

William C. Gillman, Moses Day, J. M. Woods, Asaph Withington, Andrew Bagley, J. B. Bancroft, M. W. Edwards.

There were 52 marriages recorded in the town in 1877, of which 13 were of foreign birth, and 39 of American birth.

There were 190 births recorded, of which 114 had fathers of foreign birth, and 108 mothers of foreign birth; 76 had fathers of American birth, and 82 had mothers of American birth.

The whole number of deaths recorded is 207. 131 were of foreign parentage, 76 of American parentage; 74 being five years and less, 38 being over five and less than twenty years, 48 being over twenty and less than fifty years, 39 being over fifty years and less than eighty years, and 8 over eighty years of age.

Cause of Death. — Diphtheria, 43; pneumonia, 8; heart disease, 5; bronchitis, 4; fever, 3; water on brain, 3; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 2; inflammation of bowels, 2; teething, 2; railroad accident, 2; consumption, 39; croup, 7; paralysis, 5; typhoid fever, 4; apoplexy, 3; decline, 3; cold, 2; accidentally burned, 2; cholera infantum, 2; erysipelas, 2; old age, 13; infantile, 7; summer complaint, 5; suicide, 7; still-born, 3; hemorrhage of stomach, 2; fits, 2; rupture of blood-vessel, 2; contusion of brain, 2. Also, one of each of the following-named causes: kidney disease, frozen, cancer in stomach, canker-rash, abscess in bowels, alcoholism, jaundice, neuralgia, internal hemorrhage, diarrhœa, brain fever, congestion of brain, tumor, disease of spine, dropsy, cancer in womb, dysentery, hip disease, bilious, rupture, measles, inflammation of stomach, child-bed fever, and insanity.

There have been 306 dogs licensed since the 30th day of April, 1877.

There have been 57 liquor licenses recorded for the present year.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MILFORD,

FOR THE YEAR 1877–78.

MILFORD, MASS.:
G. W. STACY, STEAM JOB PRINTER,
No. 86 Main Street.
1878.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

CHARLES J. THOMPSON, *Chairman.*
GEORGE E. STACY, *Secretary.*
JAMES T. CANNAVAN.
CHARLES A. DEWEY.
CHARLES E. WHITNEY.
M. P. CALLANAN.

JOHN W. SIMONDS,
Superintendent of Schools.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

To the School Committee of Milford: —

Gentlemen, — I have the honor of submitting the first annual report of the Superintendent of Public Schools for the town of Milford. In this report I shall endeavor to present to you and the citizens of Milford a fair account of the condition of your school system, as it has appeared to me, some appropriate statements and suggestions relative to the present and prospective wants of your schools, and a summary of the service rendered as Superintendent of Schools.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND SCHOOL-ROOMS.

The school buildings in town display no unnecessary expense in architecture. They are comfortable, substantial, and well supplied with seats and desks.

The number of school-rooms in town intended for the use of primary and grammar schools is sufficient for the wants of those schools. A good room in the Claflin School-house is unoccupied. There is also an unoccupied room in the third story of the North Grammar School-house. The primary school at the Plains, Miss M. E. Cochrane, teacher, has registered one hundred and twenty different scholars the past year, with an average term attendance of seventy-three scholars. The school at Deer Brook has averaged seven scholars for the year. These are the extremes of a large, over-crowded school and a small one. Each school has been fur-

nished with good teachers. In the former school, the attendance is too large to insure a profitable expenditure of money. The small school at Deer Brook is very expensive, and costs the town very nearly as much to school one child there as ten at the Plains. The school at the Plains should be divided. The larger scholars could be taught in the unoccupied room in the third story of the grammar school-house, or else a new school-room should be constucted. Fully impressed that the wants and rights of the small number of children at Deer Brook should not be ignored, because they reside in an isolated section of the town, I am satisfied their school advantages would actually be improved if they could be conveyed to the Plains school. Further, it would be an act of financial and educational economy for the town to provide the children at Deer Brook with public conveyance to the Plains school. If these schools are not thus united, I am very positive in my recommendation that the Plains school should be divided.

The over-crowded condition of other school-rooms can be relieved by a judicious assignment of scholars at the time of the annual promotions.

All of the school rooms in town should be thoroughly cleaned before the beginning of the fall term.

Several of the primary school-rooms have not an adequate supply of blackboard surface. No school-room is properly furnished unless it has a band of blackboard surface passing entirely around the room, windows and doors excepted, at a height from the floor suited to the grade of the school. The active and skilful teacher has occasion for the constant use of the blackboard in the drill and exercises of classes and in explanations and illustrations. Efficient teaching requires that nearly all the school-room work should be elucidated by exercises and work upon the blackboard. In this way clearer conceptions of the ideas and principles taught are impressed upon scholars. When a scholar can properly express the leading ideas of a lesson upon the board, that act furnishes good evidence that those ideas have been comprehended by his mind and assimilated by his intelligence. This extensive use of blackboards as a superior means of instruction is alike applicable to primary and grammar grades.

GLOBES, CHARTS, MAPS, DICTIONARIES.

It is not necessary to discuss the real use and actual need of a supply of globes, maps, and dictionaries for intelligent and successful school-room work.

I am compelled to report that your schools are not well supplied with these articles of necessary apparatus.

It is also advisable that each teacher should have upon her desk text books differing from those used by the class, for the purpose of reference and consultation. Thus teachers would have at hand material suitable for general instruction, for review and test exercises.

Within a few years, useful books have been published upon the science and art of school instruction. These books have been prepared by experienced and able teachers. They discuss the general methods of teaching, of teaching the several common branches in accordance with the laws that govern the activities and growth of the child's mind, of organizing, classifying, and managing schools. The study of such books is well calculated to aid teachers in performance of their responsible duties. It is worthy of your consideration, gentlemen, whether the interests of public education would not be promoted by the purchase of a well-selected teacher's library for circulation and use among the teachers in the public schools. The trustees of the town library might add these books to their shelves, if you should think best to so advise them.

A moderate sum, judiciously expended, would furnish all the school-rooms with an adequate supply of blackboard, repair that already worn, and furnish the schools with globes, charts, maps, and dictionaries needed. With these appliances, good teachers will have the proper means for stimulating thought and mental action, for illustration and explanation, and for exercising their scholars in a practical manner. Without this necessary apparatus, progress in the development of mind and progress in studies will be stinted and slow; the style of the school work will be narrow and mechanical.

JANITORS.

The neatness, comfort, and health of the school-room is dependent upon the care given it. I have observed that certain janitors have manifested a commendable interest in the care and warmth of the school-room, and in maintaining a cleanliness of the building and an orderly arrangement of the yard. It seems to me that janitors for school buildings should be elected by a vote of the School Committee, and then held responsible for a proper care of the rooms.

SUPPLIES, REPAIRS.

There is frequent demand for such necessary supplies as crayons, erasers, pointers, brooms, dusters, water pails and dippers, ink and paper, and for repairs of accidents to glass, seats, etc. The good of the schools requires that such supplies and repairs be made without delay. It is suggested whether it may not be advisable to commit to the Superintendent the care of the ordinary supplies and repairs.

SCHOLARS.

For a detailed statement of the whole number of scholars attending, the average attendance, and other important items, reference is made to the accompanying statistical table.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE.

An examination of the school registers displays a lamentable record of marks for tardiness and absence. In some cases this irregular attendance is unavoidable, as in case of sickness; then it is excusable. This remark applies to the large numbers of scholars that have been kept from school a week, or longer, this term, on account of the sickness that has prevailed among children. In many cases I am satisfied that the scholar is late or absent from some trivial cause. This fault must be corrected by the action of parents, or by the co-operation of parents with teachers. Parents have a positive duty to perform in this work, and it is incumbent upon them to use all proper means to have their children in school regularly, and in season. Frequent

absences will so impede the progress of the scholar as to disqualify him for promotion at the close of the year.

It seems to me that when the parent is aware he cannot keep his child in school the entire year, he had better keep him in school *regularly* a part of the year. When the child can again be spared for school, he should join some class he is qualified to enter. I am expecting that the present system of monthly reports of attendance to parents by teachers will exercise a strong influence in reducing the list of irregular attendance.

If the bell upon the Town Hall should be rung morning and afternoon, fifteen minutes before the opening of the schools, that signal would aid in securing prompt attendance.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

According to the laws of the State, approved by the people, the money of persons and corporations is taken for the purpose of furnishing all children with the advantages of school instruction. A just corollary of the right of the State to raise money for the support of schools by taxation is that the State has the right to require that children of a proper age shall attend school. To make the ignorant learn is no more despotical than to make the penurious pay for that learning. The law for compulsory attendance interferes with the liberty of parents just as the law requiring service upon juries, and aid in arresting criminals, military service in the hour of the country's need, the punishment and imprisonment of juvenile criminals, and the protection of the child from abuse of the parent. In case the compulsory attendance of children would be attended by hardship, or poverty may detain the child from school, public or private charity should meet the exigency, and supply the lack of decent clothing, and kindly invite the attendance of destitute absentees.

TRUANCY.

A State law requires "the school committees of the several cities and towns to appoint and fix the compensation of two or more truant officers, who shall, under the direction of the committee, have charge of the execution of the by-laws of the

town relating to habitual truants and children between the ages of seven and fifteen years, who may be found wandering about in the streets or public places, having no lawful business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance." Towns are also required to make all needful by-laws concerning truants. Thus you perceive, gentlemen, that the law for the appointment of truant officers is peremptory, and not permissive, and the duty to appoint is not conditioned upon any action of the town.

Hon. Joseph White, the late Secretary of the State Board of Education, in his annual report for 1876, in speaking of the duties imposed upon the school committees by the laws relating to school attendance, says: "These laws are of transcendent importance, and the intelligent and faithful discharge of them, while calling for no small amount of time and labor, not to say courage also, cannot fail to be productive of untold benefits alike to the defenceless classes for whose protection the laws were enacted and to the whole community."

SCHOOLS.

Forty-one different schools have been maintained the past year, the same number of school-rooms occupied for school purposes, and an equal number of teachers employed. The High School has been in session forty weeks; all other schools thirty-six weeks.

DISTRICT SCAOOLS.

Six of these schools, situated in the outskirts of the town, are ungraded in classification, and are known as District Schools. The studies here pursued extend from the elements of reading to the branches preparatory to the High School. These schools necessarily require the formation of a large number of classes. The classes contain a less number of scholars than those in the graded schools; thus the teachers, although having less time for the instruction and drill of classes, have more time for the personal instruction of scholars. The younger scholars in these schools are constantly learning by hearing the older scholars recite. In the

ungraded schools scholars pass to higher classes or studies as rapidly as they are qualified. The most excellent of the features of the District School appears in the opportunity offered for the culture and development of the individual temperaments.

GRADED SCHOOLS.

The thirty-five remaining schools are graded. The method of classifying schools according to the progress of the scholars is the plan of organization that becomes necessary when the population is compact and numerous. The advantages of a system of schools judiciously graded cannot be overestimated. "It secures perfect classification, according to the attainments and standing of the pupils. It brings together those of the same age, who have a common interest and a common sympathy; and hence they are much more profited than they could be in a mixed and unclassified condition. This system enables school officers to select teachers who are especially fitted for their own particular departments. It secures the advantages of complete division of labor, full time for class recitation, and a more complete supervision of schools." The present plan of grading the schools, as published in the regulations, contemplates twelve classes, and extends over a period of twelve years. This plan assigns three years to the primary grade, five years to the grammar-school grade, and four years to the High School course. The period of twelve years for the public school course is sufficient. It seems to me, if this time were so subdivided as to give each grade four years, the real condition and wants of each grade would be met in a more satisfactory manner. The existing condition of the schools may not admit of that classification at present, but I think that method of grading should be kept steadily in view, and by good management can be secured at the end of another year.

Thus graded, each school of the three grades would be composed of *one class*, and all of the advantages of a well-graded system, just named, would be secured. This plan of classification would require that the annual promotions be made upon the basis of qualifications and attainments. The method of keeping a

record of each scholar's attainments in each study, and of conducting written examinations, recently introduced and now in successful operation in the grammar schools, will, I think, furnish a suitable standard for making promotions, so that next year all of the grammar schools, with perhaps three exceptions, can be organized with one class each, and by the end of the second year, all schools can be so organized. With one class in each room the teacher has ample time for explanation, illustration, and personal instruction; by dividing the class into sections for reciting, she has time for introducing and explaining general and useful topics in the manner of oral instruction, and also of introducing frequent illustrative exercises which will furnish the occasion for the practical application of the subjects presented in the text books. This practical application of the topics taught will tend in a wonderful degree to expand the pupil's circle of knowledge by awakening his observations, stimulating his power to think, and by exercising his capacity to reason. The ill effects of the present imperfect system of classification, wherein two separate classes are formed in each school, appear very prominently in what is called the memoriter, or mechanical method of teaching and learning. The classes are large. Recitations pass in a sluggish manner. The teacher is so hurried from limited time, with the daily order of exercises, that she has no opportunity for illustration and practical instruction. By this mechanical method the mind of the scholar is treated as a *receptacle* for information, rather than a living intelligence, endowed with the power of self-activity, which it is the teacher's duty to awaken and strengthen, not to glut and stupefy. Again, this plan of two classes to each grammar-school room implies that it would take eight of the best years of the scholar's life to go through with the grammar course. This long, tedious process must be very discouraging to the scholar of average ability. I am satisfied that the real educative power of the grammar schools would be greatly enhanced were these schools so graded that there should be one class in each room. All the excellent features here mentioned attending one class to each room can be witnessed in the Park School, No. 3, when the one-class arrangement was instituted last September.

The present management of the grammar schools is calculated to secure this unity in classification at the earliest practicable day.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Three private schools, two in Grant Block and one on Jefferson Street, have been in successful operation the past year. These schools, independent of the action of the town school officers, are supported and patronized by the citizens of Milford, and they should receive mention in an enumeration of the educational forces of the town.

For more definite information concerning the public schools, reference is made to the tabular statement.

TEACHERS.

During this year, four changes have occurred in the entire number of teachers. Miss Minnie E. Jones was elected, in September, to the South Grammar School, Room No 2. At the same time, Miss Ellen A. Moriarty was promoted from the place of assistant in Primary School No. 2, Town House, to the care of the Fountain Street School; in December she was returned to the former school as principal, taking the place of Miss Inez E. Tuttle, resigned. Miss Mary J. Kelly, of High Street, was chosen to fill the vacancy at the Fountain Street School.

The selection of teachers, and their assignment to schools, is an important work, that requires great care and discrimination. In this work, the action of the committee, trammelled by no outside influences, should be determined by the firm purpose to subserve the interests of public education. A mistake made here will be detrimental to the cause of public education. Whenever a vacancy occurs by resignation or otherwise, the tried, skilful, and progressive teacher should have the first offer of the place. Whenever it is necessary to employ a new teacher, great care should be exercised to select a person fitted for the school by natural endowments as well as attainments. Your schools can be steadily improved and advanced by supplying them with earnest, progressive, and skilful teachers. In fact, good economy forbids the employment of any

others. The instruction and training of the child's immortal mind is a subject too delicate and precious to be marred and injured by the bungling manipulations of an incompetent hand.

As a measure for the proper protection of the public school interests, I suggest that hereafter you require all new teachers to teach one term on probation, before a full election. Hon. J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of the State Board, in his recent report says, "Before a teacher is permitted to enter our schools, he should be carefully examined with reference to his health, his manners and general culture, his knowledge of what he is to teach, his mode of teaching, his ideas of school government, and especially with reference to his morals. As the teacher is to stamp his own mental and moral image on the minds of his pupils, it is of the utmost importance that he shall be as nearly perfect as possible." He adds, quoting from an Ohio State school report, that "the securing of persons to teach in the public schools of the State is no unimportant matter. It is not simply a question whether or not the public money shall be wasted on incompetent employés. A school under the control of an incompetent, inefficient, immoral, or coarse teacher is productive of more evil in a community than would result from having no school provision whatever."

Teaching is gradually and justly assuming the character of a profession. Certain qualifications have already been determined. The duties and responsibilities of the office are generally understood and appreciated. The importance of the work necessarily obligates those who accept the office of public school teacher, to make the instruction and management of the schools assigned them the prominent and chief subject of their thoughts and energies. Every parent and every child has a claim upon the freshness, the vigor, the progressive and inventive power of the teacher.

PRIMARY TEACHING.

I take great pleasure in being able to report to you very favorably of the character and quality of the larger part of the instruction given in the primary schools. The teachers generally appear to be well qualified, and well adapted to their work. They are

earnest, skilful, intelligent, and on the alert for the acquisition of new ideas and improved methods. These characteristics inspire activity and insure progress. I have witnessed many improvements in methods of teaching and managing the primary schools, and still expect that the progressive teachers will continue this work of improvement, so successfully begun. I regard this awakening in primary work as a sure promise of advance through the other grades of school.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEACHING.

As I have previously intimated, the work of the teachers in the grammar schools is clogged by the imperfect system of classification and promotions that has prevailed. Now there are two classes in each room, when there should be only one. Further, the progress of each class is impeded by scholars not qualified to be in it, whom the teachers and class are compelled to *carry along.* Still, amidst these clouds of embarrassments, the earnest and efficient labor of faithful teachers appears conspicuous, and is none the less highly valued and commended by the Superintendent.

I should take great pleasure in presenting you a recorded list of the names of those teachers who, with skill and efficiency, guide and instruct in your primary, grammar, and ungraded schools; but the plan adopted in the preparation of this report forbids that.

HIGH SCHOOL.

The work in this department, conducted by a principal and two teachers, is performed in a faithful, earnest, and painstaking manner.

The great value of a High School, in a large community like this, is apparent, and needs no argument. The public spirit and wisdom of the citizens of Milford have been manifested by the establishment and support of the High School. It is the duty of all citizens to co-operate in advancing the interests of this school.

Nine young gentlemen and ladies completed the English and

Classical Course last June, and received diplomas of graduation. Twenty-eight students were admitted in September.

It seems to me that the power of the High School for public good would be enhanced if some modifications should be made in the course of study now pursued. The English and Classical Course, which embraces three parallel courses in science, mathematics, and language, and extends over a period of four years, is the only course taken by scholars at the present time. This course would be improved, if it were so modified that the time prescribed for certain branches, as general history, mental science, and English literature were extended, and the time given to other branches lessened. Further, I think provisions should be made for instruction and drill in reading and spelling, English grammar, arithmetic and its practical applications. I seriously question the expediency or economy of requiring all scholars to pursue a foreign language. It is evident to me that the tastes and wants of those scholars who remain in the High School only about two years would be answered by providing for a shorter course, covering two years. In this shorter course, the time now devoted to the study of Latin should be given to the study of those higher English branches which will unfold to the scholar many facts and principles of lasting importance. In establishing a shorter course, it would be necessary to form only two or three new classes. This would necessitate the employment of another teacher a part of the time.

I am satisfied, gentlemen, that the changes here suggested in the Classical Course, and in the establishment of a shorter course, would add greatly to the value and educative power of your High School.

COURSE OF STUDY.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

A course of study was prepared and introduced into the schools of Milford some ten years since. The essential features of that course still remain unchanged. A series of text books, introduced at the time that course was adopted, still remain, except the readers, which were changed last September. There are ample evidences that this course of study was arranged and the text books were selected in accordance with the educational wants and progress of that time. You will not consider me captious if I respectfully suggest that the course of study should be thoroughly revised and reconstructed, according to the present system of school instruction and school management, and that the leading text books, except the readers, are unfit for school use. The reasons for this sweeping recommendation are based upon the recent improvements made in the science and art of teaching and school management. These improvements in the methods of school instruction are well founded upon the laws governing the development and growth of the human mind. This is the true philosophy of school instruction.

Authors and publishers have comprehended the practical utility of this new philosophy, and applied its principles to the preparation of school books. I am now prepared to express an opinion, formed after extended observation and thought, that no parent in this age of progress can consent to endure the waste of time and the intellectual detriment incurred by having the activities of his child's mind confused and stinted by studying school books whose arrangement violates the laws of mind. I do not think there is a parent in town who would not hail with joy any modification in the course of study or change in text books which would advance the interests of his child in school work.

Attention is invited to the following provisions of an act, approved March 14, 1876: —

"SECT. 1. The school committee shall direct what books shall be used in the public schools, and shall prescribe, as far as practicable, a course of studies and exercises to be pursued in said schools.

"SECT. 2. In any town or city in this Commonwealth, a change may be made in the school books used in the public schools by a vote of two [thirds of the whole school committee thereof, at a meeting of said committee, notice of such intended change having been given at a previous meeting of said committee.

"Sect. 3. If any change is made, as provided for in section second of this act, each pupil then belonging to the public schools and requiring the substituted book shall be furnished with the same by the school committee, at the expense of said town or city."

Sect. 29 of Chap. 38 of the school laws, prescribes that "the school committee shall procure, at the expense of the city or town, a sufficient supply of text books for the public schools, and give notice where they may be obtained. Said books shall be furnished to the pupils at such prices as to merely reimburse the expense of the same. The school committee may also procure, at the expense of the town or city, such apparatus, books of reference, and other means of illustration as they deem necessary for the schools under their supervision, in accordance with appropriations therefor previously made.

"Sect. 30. If any scholar is not furnished by his parent, master, or guardian, with the requisite books, he shall be supplied therewith at the expense of the town.

"Sect. 32, amendment 1. Any town by a legal vote may authorize the school committee to purchase text books for use in the public schools, said text books to be the property of the town and to be loaned to pupils under such regulations as the school committee may provide."

It is evident that the laws of the State, providing for a supply of school books, have been framed with great care in order that the text-books may be furnished at the least expense to the town or parent.

An application of the provisions in Sects. 3 and 29 of the acts given above — these provisions do not seem to be permissive, but compulsory — would materially lessen the expenses to parents for school books.

It is the custom of the town, according to the best information I can obtain, to furnish books annually to the amount of one hundred and twenty dollars, according to the provisions of Sect. 29, given.

The plan of furnishing *school text books free*, as provided in Sect. 32 above, offers the great advantage of having the books

ready for use when a class or scholar wants them. At present there is delay in many cases, and loss of time, before the scholars have the needed books. This plan, too, will furnish the books at the very lowest rate of expense, for the books can be purchased direct from the publishers at the lowest wholesale prices. Reports from the places where books are thus furnished show that the cost of school books has been reduced from twenty-five to fifty per cent. When one class or scholar has finished a set of books, these books are preserved for the use of succeeding classes and scholars.

This plan of furnishing school books free has been adopted in several towns and cities in New England and the Middle States, and wherever tried it is universally approved. This plan is *favorably commended to the attention of the School Committee and citizens* of Milford.

Since the Act of 1876 requires that books introduced should be furnished free, the law just quoted requires that the committee shall, through an agent, provide for the sale of books at cost, and other acts provide for text books, in certain cases, at the expense of the town. It seems to me that the proposition to furnish all school books free is worthy of candid consideration by the intelligent citizens of Milford.

The School Committee will note that the office of Superintendent of Schools furnishes a proper and inexpensive agency to furnish school books under the present laws.

CHANGES DEMANDED.

Certain changes in the course of study and books used must be made before our schools can meet the wants of a progressive community. The evident design of the common school course is to furnish to all the youth the opportunities for so much school instruction as will prepare them for the ordinary duties of citizenship. Governor Rice, in his recent message, with great wisdom says, "The public schools should never be permitted to fall below the most advanced methods of teaching, on the one hand; and, on the other, they should embrace in their courses of instruction what

is necessary as a foundation for success and usefulness in the ordinary pursuits of life, so that the educational force shall keep pace with the progress of every other interest." The present common school course embraces reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and history of the United States added this term. This course may be more briefly stated as comprehending three divisions, language, number, and science. I invite attention to a brief consideration of each division.

LANGUAGE.

By the use of this term I include all work and teaching that bears directly upon the study and use of the English language in the common school course. The structure and use of language is taught from the readers, spellers, writing and the grammars. This is unquestionably the most important branch in the whole course. The great result to be attained by the study of language in the common schools should be to secure that amount of knowledge and mental discipline, which will enable the scholar to communicate his ideas and thoughts to others in a correct and intelligible manner by the use of spoken or written propositions. The success or failure in this division can be tested by its approach to the result named or departure from it. Now, gentlemen, I have had ample opportunities, in the oral and written examinations, to apply this test to the character of the study and the teaching of language in your grammar schools, and I regret that I am constrained to report to you that the results attained in this department are unsatisfactory and not commensurate with the time and money expended. I think I can explain to you the causes of this sad failure, and suggest a remedy.

A new series of readers were introduced at the opening of the fall term. The trial given them is ample evidence of the excellence of the readers. I have noticed in the primary schools, and in the two lower grades of the grammar schools, marked improvement in reading and oral expression attending the use of the new readers. Marked improvements in the other grammar grades could not be expected in so short a time. The primary teachers have manifested their satisfaction and encouragement from the introduction

of new and well-adapted books, by extracting what is valuable from every hint and suggestion made, and by skilfully applying it to the work in hand. The spelling words have been selected from the readers or words in common use. The teaching in spelling has been by writing the words and sentences.

I am pleased that I can report so favorably of the fitness of the new readers, of the impulse given to the work in this important branch, of the progress already made, and of the still greater progress in store.

The failure to secure adequate results in the department of language in the grammar grades can be directly traced to, 1, The unfitness of the books used, viz., speller and grammars; 2, To the mistaken methods of teaching that have prevailed, consequent upon the use of these books; and 3, To a want of an appropriate share of time and attention. In order that there should be no doubts concerning the statements in the preceding proposition, I intended to have presented a statistical summary of the mistakes made in spelling, in the use of capitals, in the use of punctuation marks, and in the construction of sentences by the classes in the No. 1 Grammar Schools, in a written examination of ten questions in each study. In this examination the scholars were expected to express their own ideas in their own language. Ample time was allowed for preparing the answers, but no assistance allowed from any source. Upon further consideration, I have concluded to withhold that summary, fearing that an array of mistakes named would produce discouragement and defeat my purpose. It will not be understood that this examination was conducted for the purpose of exhibiting mistakes, but as a practical exercise recently introduced to test the scholars' acquirements in the process of intelligent written expression, and the efficiency of the instruction in language.

The practical inquiry arises, can these defects in the instruction and study of our language be removed? Can some sensible method of teaching language, and successful method of learning it, be substituted? I answer both inquiries, very emphatically, in the affirmative, and that, too, without giving any increase of time to this division. You are advised to withdraw the books upon spell-

ing and grammar, now in use, and substitute in their places some of the excellent works recently published upon those subjects. The arrangement of these new books would substitute improved and sensible methods of teaching and learning language, methods founded upon the laws that govern the development and progress of the child's mind, upon the laws of language, and a wise regard to what the child will need and use in practical life.

PENMANSHIP.

The copy books used in writing are good. Neither the teaching or work accomplished in this useful branch is satisfactory. Writing evidently has received too little attention. Increased attention has recently been directed to this branch. Improvements are already visible in the primary schools. More satisfactory results in all grades may be soon expected.

NUMBER.

Number or arithmetic is taught in our schools from four different text books. The instruction given through all the schools is generally *excellent*. I cheerfully accord to the teachers in the No. 1 Grammar Schools the credit of manifesting superior skill and efficiency in conducting the work in this branch. I am satisfied, however, gentlemen, that the work upon arithmetic has received a larger share of time and attention than the best interests of your scholars require. This work has become too exhaustive. Several difficult rules are studied, and intricate problems solved, that will never be of any practical use to the common scholar or business man, and several practically useful principles are not taught because not in the old book now in use. The study of the "mental arithmetic," so called, has been discontinued in the lower grades at my suggestion, for this reason: the book used presented principles and problems too abstract and complicate for the mind of the scholars to grasp and solve. In the place of the "mental arithmetic," teachers have been directed to introduce practical drill exercises in number, simple illustrative examples, and test questions in connection with the written arithmetic. In my opinion there is need of only two books in arithmetic, an elementary and

a practical book. These books should be selected with a view of meeting the wants and condition of scholars. The study of the elementary book should begin when the child enters the grammar grade, and would answer for two years.

This *elementary* book should treat of the four simple rules, common and decimal fractions, decimal currency, the practical rules in reduction, mensuration of regular surfaces and solids, the elements of percentage and interest, with a proper selection of appropriate examples under each rule. This book should contain an outline of the rules and principles of arithmetic needed in practical life, and would be well adapted to the wants of that large number of our scholars who leave school at or near the close of the second year in the grammar school. Neither of the arithmetics used meet this great want; but suitable books can be found in the market.

The *practical* arithmetic for the third and fourth year of the grammar schools should present a review, not a rehash, of the rudiments, fractions and decimal currency with fuller explanations and broader applications, a fuller treatment of mensuration, arithmetical analysis, and business rules, a thorough business treatment of percentage and its practical applications, the metric system of weights and measures, which was legalized by an Act approved March 10, 1877, and something relating to proportion; the roots and progressions may be taken up if there be time. Such an arithmetic should abound with sensible, practical examples and questions. I fail to see the necessity or utility of requiring the common scholars to learn the various contractions in multiplication and division, the elaborate discussions upon the properties of numbers, complex fractions, reduction of denominate fractions, the addition, substraction, multiplication, and division of compound numbers, duodecimals, equation of payments and alligation, as presented in the book used. I think more than one half of all the children that enter the public schools leave the schools before they have acquired a knowledge of the rudiments of calculation. This defect would be remedied by the use of properly selected books. If you should deem it advisable to adopt these recommendations, the time thus saved to the scholar, now wasted, could be utilized in a manner that will be named as I proceed, and nearly one half of the expense for arithmetics saved.

SCIENCE.

Geography. — This branch is learned from two text books. The study of it begins when the scholar enters the lowest grade of the grammar schools, and continues as long as he remains in a grammar school, be the time four or eight years. It became apparent to me, during my first visits to your schools, that much of the time spent in learning geography, according to the plan indicated in the text books, was *misspent*, if not *wasted*. Accordingly, the method of teaching geography was introduced and discussed at the teachers' meetings. The ideas and experience of teachers were there compared. The approved methods, founded upon sound pedagogical ideas, were submitted. Considerable information was obtained at the Teachers' Institute at Franklin. As a result of these investigations, nearly all of the teachers have adopted better methods of teaching this branch. The best methods are not available with the arrangements and material of the books used.

The teachers in the No. 1 Grammar Schools are now doing superior work in this branch. Their plan ignores the text book in use.

A change of text books in this branch is greatly needed. The new books should be clear and concise, and direct the attention of the scholar to those matters which will be needed in after life. All unimportant details in this study should be omitted. General but substantially correct ideas are all that can be expected here; for these will be nearly all that will remain in the scholar's mind, after all the labor and time that may be expended upon details. When judiciously pursued in the school-room, geography becomes a life-long study, full of pleasure and profit; badly taught, it is, perhaps, more than any other subject, "stale, flat, and unprofitable." With properly selected text books and efficient teaching, the study of geography need not be extended beyond the third year of the grammar course. Here, again, you notice, time and labor can be saved for other useful work.

HISTORY.

By a decision of the School Committee, made at the close of the fall term, the study of the history of the United States was prescribed as a grammar-school study. This was a move in the line of progress, and history is now studied in the No. 1 Grammar Schools. When this useful and interesting study becomes fully incorporated into the school system, it will be advisable to arrange for having some oral instruction upon the prominent features of the history of our country given in the No. 2 Grammar Schools, as preparatory work to entering upon the study of the text book in the No. 1 schools. It will also be necessary to select some book for study suited to the age and intelligence of the scholars.

The assignment of this study to the grammar course will, I have no doubt, add much to increase the interest and usefulness of the work in those schools, and advance the standard of scholarship for the High School.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE NEEDED.

The study of reading, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, as pursued in our schools, furnishes but limited material for nourishing and expanding the intelligence of the child. In seeking appropriate and useful subjects, calculated to awaken in the scholar an interest and a thirst for information, a desire for study, and at the same time to furnish him material for observation, thought, and investigation, we must look to some of the departments of natural science. The elements of physiology will teach the child many facts and principles underlying the structure and preservation of his mental and physical system. The elements of physics or natural philosophy will unfold some of the interesting and useful phenomena of nature, and teach something of the useful arts. The time hitherto wasted in school in learning the spelling of words unknown to the scholar, in the memorizing of technical and abstract grammar, in the study of unimportant rules in arithmetic, wasted upon "mental arithmetic," and the study of the details of foreign geography, should be saved and utilized upon the study of the elementary of natural science. The knowledge thus acquired will not be forgotten as soon as the term closes, but will increase with the expanding mind and bear rich fruit in mature years. Appropriate books, of a moderate size and little expense, have been prepared upon the elements of the

science, suited to the age and intelligence of the common scholar.

I am satisfied, from a thorough investigation of this subject, that the interests of public education in town require that the study of the elements of physiology and natural philosophy, for a few minutes each day, should be introduced into the No. 3 and No. 2 Grammar Schools.

SINGING.

A gentleman experienced and interested in the matters of school instruction says: "The science of vocal music should be taught in all of our schools, as the elementary branches are taught to young scholars. Singing in schools will have a salutary influence on the ground of its aid in securing good discipline. It furnishes an outflow to the natural spirits, subduing the turbulence of restless children. It furnishes a help to the general studies by introducing a healthful diversion, which will refresh the weary for renewed efforts. Its practice strengthens and cultivates the voice, and thus facilitates the instruction in reading. As a daily exercise, its use should be more frequent in the lower than higher grades." A practical illustration of these remarks may be witnessed by a visit to several of the younger grades of school, where singing is well taught.

DRAWING.

An Act of the legislature in 1870 recognized drawing as an educational subject, and prescribed that "every town or city having more than ten thousand inhabitants shall annually make provision for giving free instruction in industrial or mechanical drawing to persons over fifteen years of age, either in day or evening schools, under the direction of the school committee." Hon. John D. Philbrick, for twenty years superintendent of the public schools of Boston, in his annual report for 1874, in speaking of drawing says: —

"If, recently, more has been done in this community than in previous years to promote instruction in drawing, it is because it is beginning — *only beginning* — to be seen that it is an essential branch of general education in all its degrees, and also the foundation of

all technical and industrial education; that it is a thing of use in every department of business and in every condition in life; that it is in itself an expressive language, easily depicting to the eye what no words, however well chosen, can represent; that it is the best means of cultivating the power and habit of accurate observation, and of developing the perception and the love of the beautiful in nature and in art; that it is indispensable for the architect, the engraver, the engineer, the designer, the draughtsman, the moulder, the machine-builder, and the head mechanic of every craft; that it gives a training to the eye and hand which everybody needs; that it is a special help in teaching writing, as expressed in the Pestalozzian saying, 'Without drawing there can be no writing'; that it is calculated to afford invaluable aid to the inventive genius of our people; that it is an instrument for illustration in teaching which should be in every teacher's hands; and that, if properly taught, it more than compensates for the time it takes in facilitating instruction in other branches."

I am satisfied that a proper consideration of the relative merits of singing and drawing would place these branches in the schedule of topics for school exercises, and that free-hand drawing should constitute a school exercise, through the grammar course, receiving two lessons each week, and penmanship three.

ORAL INSTRUCTION.

The revised course of study should contain a list of subjects for general instruction, graduated according to the age and progress of the school. This list should include the subjects of good manners and morals, and the simpler principles of our town, State, and national government.

I must not be understood as advising that the study of the elements of science and oral instruction should displace the study of the great common branches. I *do advise* that the time and labor now wasted upon certain unnecessary and useless portions of study be saved, and utilized upon the former. The useful and practical topics of the great common branches should always receive first attention.

It seems to me that an intelligent supervision of a system of schools should regard that great bond of connection which pervades the different branches. In teaching arithmetic, the correct use of language should be observed, and the taste cultivated in an orderly arrangement of the work. In reading, geographical and historical references should be elucidated, the meaning of words and sentences explained, attention given to the spelling of new words, and the beauties of style noticed, as far as practicable. In all of the activities of the public school-room, and in all the associations and amusements of the scholars, the civilities of neatness, of orderly movements and courteous demeanor to others, and the virtues of truth, honesty, and temperance should always be inculcated.

Gentlemen, if you are of opinion that the statements and suggestions here made, with reference to revising the course of study and books used, are in accord with the condition, wants and progress of your public schools, and shall incorporate these suggestions into your system of school instruction, as is to be earnestly hoped, I am satisfied, by that action, you will take from teachers the most active agency which neutralizes their skill and activity, and relieve scholars of much of the tedium and repulsiveness that weakens their interest in school. Your schools are filled with a very active, promising class of children, who merit from your hands and the hands of their parents the advantages of the best implements for school work. Given active children, suitable books, skilful teachers, an efficient supervision, and comfortable means, the problem of good schools is readily solved, in a manner satisfactory to every intelligent parent.

WORK PERFORMED.

The service rendered your schools since entering upon the duties of Superintendent last September, may be briefly stated as relating to the inspection, examination, instruction, and management of the schools.

The time allotted to visits for the inspection of a school and examination of a class has extended from the time given a single

recitation to a half-day. At these visits, it has been my custom to have the teacher conduct the exercise, in order that I could note her manner of teaching, as well as the scholars' manner of reciting. I have asked questions during the exercises, made such suggestions at the close, to teachers and scholars, as seemed advisable under the circumstances. At times, I have conducted the recitations of classes, giving illustrative exercises, and at the close have made short addresses to the schools. This service has been of the nature of assistance and encouragement, not of espial and interference. The teachers generally have shown themselves zealous and anxious for the best results. It would have been very easy, at the time of these visits, to have made faults and defects so prominent as to have rendered the whole work of inspection embarrassing and not helpful.

The teachers have been called together, one afternoon each month, for the purpose of discussing questions and methods pertaining to the instruction and management of schools. I have selected the topics for consideration and notified the teachers in advance. These meetings have been productive of systematizing the work of the schools, of awakening general and healthful interests, and of introducing numerous improvements into the daily work of the school-room.

A system of monthly reports to parents of the attendance, deportment, and scholarship has been introduced into the grammar classes, and the highest classes in the primary schools. Also a system of monthly written examinations has been established in the grammar schools. The fitness of scholars for promotions to the higher grades, and to the High School, will hereafter be determined by a just standard, made up from the scholars' rank as shown by these monthly reports, written examinations, and oral examinations.

I have advised teachers regarding the half-day allowed each term for visiting other schools. I am satisfied these visits have been productive of good results.

The teachers have received two other rare opportunities for instruction and improvement, in the privilege granted of attending the Teachers' Institute for two days, held under the State edu-

cational authorities, at Franklin, last November, and an educational meeting of one day, held in the Town Hall on Feb. 15. This meeting was conducted by Hon. J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of the State Board of Education, and by Prof. Geo. A. Walton, a State school agent. The preparation of this report, however imperfect it may be, has required thought and time.

Finally, gentlemen of the School Committee, I have cheerfully and industriously united with yourselves, with the teachers and scholars, in every practicable means, to improve, to advance, and to elevate the condition of your public schools.

OFFICE WANTS.

I have no doubt that you will deem it advisable, another year, to furnish the Superintendent of Schools with suitable office room, at the Town Hall, or in a central part of the village. There would be many conveniences attending such an arrangement. The Superintendent should have specified hours, when parents, scholars, or teachers wishing to consult him could meet him at a public office. This office should be the centre of supplies for schools. At that place the committee could hold their meetings.

I ask to submit that it seems to me advisable that the School Committee should meet each month on set days. Would not an organization of the School Committee into departments or committees on schools, teachers, and text-books, and on repairs and supplies, have a tendency to systematize the working of the schools over the present organization into subcommittees? Such meetings would offer a suitable time for the mutual consultations of committee and Superintendent.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

The leading facts in school statistics relate to the school population, number and length of schools, enrolment and attendance of scholars, numbers of teachers employed and wages paid, and the annual receipts and expenditures for school purposes. These

brief statements of important results are frequently referred to by citizens and others interested in educational matters, for they furnish a reliable table of facts.

I have been greatly embarrassed in preparing the following tabular view, as well as in the preparation of the entire report, in being called upon to make a report after only a short acquaintance with the schools, in the midst of the pressing labors attendant upon the close of the winter term.

You are aware of the many conveniences that would attend the preparation of the school report, if the town would consent to have it published at the close of the winter term and presented at the April meeting.

I have taken great pains to report correctly upon the whole number of different scholars that have been enrolled in the public schools. The average attendance in this table differs from the average attendance in previous reports, since, in this report, the average attendance has been ascertained by dividing the sum of all the days' attendance of all the scholars in each school by the number of school days. By this method the average daily attendance and the percentage of attendance is less than by the method in previous reports. The plan here adopted tells the *entire* truth concerning the *large percentage* of *absences*. This percentage has been materially increased by the sickness that has prevailed during the winter term.

TABULAR SUMMARY.

Population of town	9,818
Valuation	$5,070,421

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Schools.	Teachers.	Whole Number of different Scholars.		Average daily attendance.	Percentage of attendance.
		Boys.	Girls.		
No. 2	Inez E. Tuttle*	60	49	63	.70
. . . .	Ellen A. Moriarty†	. .	. .	. .	. .
. . . .	Julia M. Barry, assistant . .	. .	. .	. .	. .
" 4	Annie E. Sheldon	59	51	63	.80
" 5	Mary F. Devine	33	31	34	.80
" 6	Mary F. Aylward	47	46	48	.80
" 7	Maggie L. Murphy	21	33	40	.80
" 9	Mary E. Cochrane	64	56	72	.75
" 10	Ellen A. Moriarty* }	17	20	20	.80
" 10	Mary J. Kelly† } . . .				
" 11	Anna L. Adams	26	28	48	.85
" 12	Augusta Cay	45	34	43	.77
" 13	S. Eldora Sheldon	27	27	36	.80
" 14	Eva L. Chapman	37	30	40	.69
" 15	Susan E. Inman	38	25	48	.80
Claflin No. 3 .	Sarah F. Burns	46	40	64	.84
" " 1 .	Delia E. Gleason	83	95	93	.74
. . . . .	Maggie F. Madden, assistant	. .	. .	. .	. .

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Silver Hill . .	Oreanna Cheney	12	11	14	.68
City	Ada A. Skinner	24	14	18	.70
So. Milford .	Eva E. Norcross	24	16	27	.89
Bear Hill . .	Kate A. Wallace	12	15	22	.89
Bragville . .	Minnie L. Mann	29	13	25	.75
Deerbrook. .	Kate Chapin	7	2	8	.88

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Park No. 1 .	Mrs. J. A. Whiting	13	24	29	.86
" " 2 .	Mrs. M. T. Cole	26	24	45	.90
" " 3 .	Sara C. Belcher	34	23	45	.90
" " 4 .	Mary J. Kelly	29	40	59	.83
North " 1 .	Helen S. Eames	35	37	44	.93
" " 2 .	Alice B. Chapin	33	29	31	.90
" " 3 .	Julia E. Connolly	24	16	35	.80
" " 4 .	Alta M. Howard	26	29	40	.80
South " 1 .	Eva R. Draper	15	17	32	.90
" " 2 .	Minnie E. Jones	24	18	33	.87
" " 3 .	Carrie V. Sadler	26	26	40	.88
" " 4 .	Carrie L. Harris	46	33	52	.78
Hopedale . .	Mrs. A. E. Tarr	28	25	32	.80
No. Purchase,	Anna E. Gates	22	18	30	.90
Claflin No. 4 .	Mrs. H. W. Staples	46	34	63	.92
" " 5 .	Kate E. Martin	37	48	42	.86

HIGH SCHOOL.

	Silas W. Hale, *Principal* .	63	58	89	.96
	Clara M. Howard, *Assistant*				
	Lucy M. Wilbur, *Assistant*				

* One term. † Two terms.